

STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-8 are pending in the application.

Claims 1 and 2 were rejected under 35 USC§102 as being anticipated by LaCroix '649.

Claims 3-8 were allowed.

Claims 1 and 2 have been amended herein.

Claims 1 (currently amended), 2 (currently amended) and 3-8 remain pending in the application following entry of this Amendment A.

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the examiner for the indication of allowable subject matter, namely claims 3-8.

Summary of the Invention

A hand-held laser pointer is disclosed that comprises a laser module, the beam of which is isolated from unwanted hand tremor motions of the laser pointer housing. A passive inertial stabilizer is utilized for stabilizing the laser module and the laser beam emanating therefrom and to suppress laser dot jitter associated with hand tremor. A collimated laser diode module is mounted on a stage that is suspended by a low-friction gimbal that pivots with respect to the housing of the pointer on two intersecting and mutually perpendicular axes. The inertial stage is coupled to the housing via a spring and damper. The damper is preferably a magnetic coupling between the laser module and the housing.

The Rejection Under 35USC§102

Claim 1 was rejected under 35USC§102 as being anticipated by LaCroix '649. Briefly, LaCroix '649 discloses a laser pointer comprising a hand-held housing (shell) and a laser module mounted within the shell. LaCroix teaches a means for absorbing shock between the laser module and the shell to minimize shock damage to the laser module arising from impact of the laser module with the shell. The shock absorbing means of LaCroix is not operable for isolating motion of the shell (due to hand tremor) from the laser beam. LaCroix's shock absorption means does not stabilize the orientation of the laser beam in the event that hand tremor is imparted to the shell.

In contrast, the present invention discloses and claims a hand-held laser pointer comprising a housing and a laser module mounted within the housing. The laser module provides a laser beam that may be directed toward a selected target to provide a visible dot thereon thereby particularly pointing out the selected target. The orientation of the laser beam (and the position of the dot) are stabilized by gimble-mounting the laser module within the housing and providing a magnetic coupling between the laser module and the housing to dampen vibrational motion of the beam emanating from the laser module due to hand tremor of the housing. The present invention provides orientational stabilization of the laser beam by at least partially isolating the orientation of the laser beam emanating from the laser module from unwanted hand tremor imparted to the housing.

In order for a patent to qualify as a reference supporting a §102 (b) rejection, it must disclose each and every limitation of the rejected claim. It is settled that even only slight differences between the compared inventions prevent a rejection based on lack of novelty under §102. Anticipation under 35 USC§102 requires that the cited references

demonstrate each and every element of the claimed invention. In view of the differences between the elements of the present invention (i.e., isolation of the orientation of the laser beam from motion of the housing due to hand tremor) and those of the prior art presented herein (i.e., shock absorption means that is inoperable for isolating the orientation of the laser beam from motion of the housing due to hand tremor), it is requested that this rejection be withdrawn.

Entry of this amendment, reconsideration, favorable action and early allowance and publication of this application are respectfully requested. If there are any minor matters remaining, it is respectfully requested that the examiner contact the undersigned by phone so that possible minor changes may be discussed in order to expedite the prosecution of this case.

Respectfully,

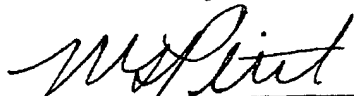


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CERTIFICATE OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that the following papers are being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark office on the date shown below.

1. Urgent and Time Sensitive Communication to the Examiner
2. Amendment A responsive to the Office Action dated 9/27/05.



Michael G. Petit

Date: December 13, 2005